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The Development of Femininity within an Intimate Relation with a Man, Illustrated by the Example of the Myth of Eros and Psyche

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Development of personality is connected with an identity formation. One of the central identities is gender identity that reflects acceptance of women/men roles and behaviors. For women gender identity is found in accepting their own femininity.

The development of femininity occurs at two levels: 1) Social – the evolution of ideas about femininity in society; this stage is connected with indirect fixing of these ideas in myths, fairy tales, symbols; 2) Individual acceptance, internalization of social representations about what is feminine.

Analysis of femininity and its formation at the social level can be described referring to the theory of C. G. Jung. It is drawing us to psychological analysis of myths and focuses on central behaviors and life scenarios of mythical heroes. The main task on the way to the formation of the female identity is harmonizing and balancing of "Eros" - the conscious part of the psyche of women and "Animus" – her unconscious part.

The myth of Cupid and Psyche is analyzed based on Epigenetic Theory of E. Erikson. The myth, a symbolic representation of female identity formation, is conditionally divided into several steps that correspond perfectly with the E. Erickson's Theory of Identity. Analysis of the myth based on the theory of C. G. Jung and E. Erickson brings us to the basic conclusion: women in a relationship with a men should be able to accept herself and the partner (emotions, individual differences and shared experiences of each other) and to create (to transform what has been taken into goals and objectives for the development, which can be accomplished only being in a couple).